California GARDEN

50 CENTS
MARCH–APRIL 1974
Vol. 65 No. 2

EVENTS

March 15–16–17: San Diego County Orchid Society will present "Beauty Unlimited" at their 28th Annual Orchid Show in the Conference Bldg., Balboa Park. Open to the public; $1.00 admission. March 15th from 7:00 to 10:00 p.m.; March 16th from 10:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m.; March 17th from 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

March 23–24: Ikebana International Chapter 119 will exhibit its Sixth Annual "Festival of Ikebana & Art" in the Casa del Prado, Balboa Park. Open to the public; FREE. Both days open 11:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

March 25 & April 22: Floral Arrangement Class conducted by Mrs. Kirkpatrick, both traditional and modern arrangements. (4th Monday of each month)

April 6–7: San Diego Bonsai Club, Inc. will present their Eighth Annual Show in the Conference Bldg. Balboa Park. Demonstrations and lectures held both days. Open to the public $1.00 admission. Saturday 10:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m.; Sunday 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

April 7: Convair Rose Show, Casa del Prado. Open to the public; FREE. 11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

April 7: San Diego Guppy Association Show in Room 104 Casa del Prado. 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

April 10: Ohara Demonstration for the establishment of the Ohara Chapter of Ikebana in the San Diego area with Mr. Muchio Tomita, Ohara Master from Japan. 12:30 p.m.

April 20–21: San Diego Geranium Society presents its Second Annual Show in the Casa del Prado. Open to the public; FREE. Saturday 12: 00 to 5:00 p.m.; Sunday 10:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

April 27–28: "Roses are Love" will be presented by the San Diego Rose Society in the Conference Bldg., Balboa Park. Open to the public; 50 cents admission. Saturday 2:00 to 9:00 p.m.; Sunday 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

April 27–28: San Diego-Imperial Counties Iris Society presents their Spring Iris Show in the Casa del Prado, FREE. Saturday 1:00 to 5:30 p.m.; Sunday 10:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

Ohara Chapter of Ikebana display with Iris in the Casa del Prado – Room 104.

April 27–28: Poway Valley Garden Club's Flower Show at the Meadowbrook School on Meadowbrook Lane in Poway. Saturday 1:00 to 5:00 p.m.; Sunday 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

May 5: San Diego Epiphyllum Society presents their show in the Casa del Prado. Open to the public;FREE. 11:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

MEETINGS

March 12 (2:00 p.m.): San Diego Floral Association monthly meeting–program will be Daffodils and Other Bulbs by Maxine Johnson of Chula Vista. (Date change this month only.)

April 16 (12:30 p.m.): San Diego Floral Association monthly meeting–program will be a Spring Tour of Quail Park, Encinitas. Meet at the Casa del Prado at 12:30 p.m. for bus trip to Quail Park. Due to the gasoline shortage, we are chartering a bus to take our members and their guests to the park. The fare will be $2.00 each which includes a guided tour and tea.

TOURS

March 16: The tour scheduled to view the wild flowers at Rancho Santa Botanic Gardens has been canceled. It appears the flowers are not cooperating.

April 18 & 20: Palm Springs-Borrego Desert Tour. One of our most popular trips going through the Anza-Borrego Desert, Salton Sea to Palm Springs (time for shopping or Tram ride). $10.00 fare; depart from Balboa Park at 8:00 a.m. La Jolla Library 8:30 a.m.

May 4: Descanso Gardens and a visit to Dr. & Mrs. Samuel Ayres' Garden in La Canada. Enjoy your own picnic lunch in the park. $8.50 fare; depart from Balboa Park 8:00 a.m.; La Jolla Library at 8:30 a.m.

The San Diego Floral Association
Founded 1907 — Incorporated 1910
San Diego's Oldest and Largest Garden Club
M-W-F (10-3) 232-5762

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CALIFORNIA GARDEN

VOLUME 65 NUMBER 2

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COVER

Lonicera japonica 'Halliana'

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editor's notebook

¶ About our cover artist–

OUR BEAUTIFUL cover is done by Marjorie Brooks. Presently employed by San Diego City Schools as an illustrator, Mrs. Brooks studied at the California College of Arts & Crafts in Oakland. Mrs. Brooks is a dedicated gardener in her spare time–what there is of it.

¶ Our cover story by Helen Witham–

THE HONEYSUCKLE most commonly seen here, in old gardens or on large banks where it makes an excellent soil-binder, is the Hall's Honeysuckle, *Lonicera japonica 'Halliana'*. This is the familiar twining vine with fragrant creamy yellow flowers about 1½ inches long. Hummingbirds like to sip their nectar–so do people, if young enough, or just young at heart.

¶ Apologies from the Editor–

THE EDITOR WISHES to apologize to Betty Mackintosh for neglecting to give photo credits for the great work she did in photographing the arrangements in the Arrangements Without Flowers article by Mary Wood in the last issue (Jan-Feb).

¶ Information from Theresa Yianilos–

IN RESPONSE to requests for information on how to join the Palm Society, Mrs. Yianilos offers the following address: National Palm Society, 1320 South Venetian Way, Miami, Florida 33139.

¶ A late arrival that missed the events page–

May 4th & 5th the Vista Garden Club will be presenting its annual flower show at 160 Recreation Place, Vista, CA. Hours will be 1:30 to 5:00 p.m. Saturday and 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. on Sunday; FREE both days.

¶ Important information from Alice Clark–

A Landscape Design Study Course II sponsored by the California Garden Clubs, Inc. under the Chairmanship of Mrs. R. Nelson Nicholson on May 7, 8, and 9, at Casa del Prado will be available for those interested.

The Many Sides of Landscape Architecture is the overall subject of the course. It will include a lecture on Landscape Graphics–Interpretation that will explain how to make and read landscape design plans. San Diego landscape architect, Gerald L. Garner, a popular speaker last fall, will clarify the subject.

Professor Jere Stuart French, from California Polytechnic University in Pomona, will continue his illuminating history that delighted us before, this time with a graphic presentation of the Development of Landscape Architecture, covering the rise of the United States Park System and design styles from 1880 to 1930.

His colleague from Pomona, Professor Stephen Bochkor, will teach the Elements of Landscape Architecture Design, while Mr. Garner will make clear the Execution of Landscape Architecture Design.

Local landscape architect, Janine Rhoads will discuss Art and Nature Appreciation as expressed in a book of that title by Opdyke. She will also discuss Plants in Composition, a subject that appeals strongly to all gardeners.

Our own landscape architect, Roy Seifert will speak on Site Design and Ground Forms.

A graduate of Cairo University, architect Aziz Fathy will present Architecture and Related Arts and Professions as another of the many addresses he has given abroad and in the United States over the past 12 years. Anthony Corso, Professor of City Planning at San Diego University, will lecture on Urban Design and later he and his fellow teacher at San Diego University will join in a Panel Discussion.

This varied program by such knowledgeable and talented speakers should be of wide interest.

PASSION–FLOWER VINES

by BARBARA JONES

PASSION-FLOWER VINES are members of the *Passifloraceae* family. Most of the eighteen genera of the family are native to South and Central America. At least eight varieties of Passion-Flowers will grow in southern California, but the summer flowering *Passiflora alato-caerulea (P. pfordtii)* is the best known and most widely planted. *P. edulis*, Passion Fruit or Purple Grandilla, produces edible fruit in spring and fall. Both are semi-evergreen, woody vines which grow well in most soils on trellises, walls or banks. They need a warm climate, but will do well any place in southern California if planted out of the wind against a warm wall. The roots must not stand in water, so drainage is important. Vines can be grown from seed or cuttings. Container grown plants are available at nurseries.

Seeds of ripe fruit can be planted in a seedling container in a standard mix of one-third topsoil, one-third sand, and one-third humus. Seedling plants will appear in about three months. If the container is placed in a plastic bag, the soil mix should have been sterilized in a flat pan in the oven at 170° F. for two hours before the seeds were planted. When the seedlings have two true leaves, individual plants should be transplanted to small pots or paper cups with a richer soil mix. When a good root system has developed the seedlings can be planted in open ground.

Cuttings should be taken between the top mature leaf of a mature branch and the main stem. Cuttings of three nodes should be placed two nodes beneath the soil in moist vermiculite or other clean propagating material. In about one month roots should appear, and the cutting should be transplanted into a pot with a good potting mix. When plants develop a good root system they can be planted in their permanent locations.

Passion-Flower vines do well with normal watering and feeding with a balanced plant food. If fruit is desired, authorities recommend a pound of 10–5–20 every year starting six months after the plant has been placed in the open ground.

The vines are vigorous growers and after the second year, excess branches can be pruned out. Pruning should be minor for good fruit production. If you are a butterfly fancier, don't spray the vines because Gulf fritillary butterflies love them.

Passion Fruit vines were brought to the Lilikoi district of Maui, Hawaii in the late 1800's. *Passiflora edulis*, purple fruited, and *P. edulis flavicarpa*, yellow fruited, are both cultivated for juice. That different, exotic flavor in many Hawaiian beverages is due to the juice of the Passion Fruit. Locally in Hawaii it is known as Lilikoi juice. Maui is famous for its gourmet dessert Lilikoi chiffon pie. (You can make it by substituting the juice of the Passion Fruit for lemon juice in a standard lemon chiffon pie recipe.) Sliced fruit is delicious in salads. The fruit should be picked when fully ripened so that its full flavor may be enjoyed.

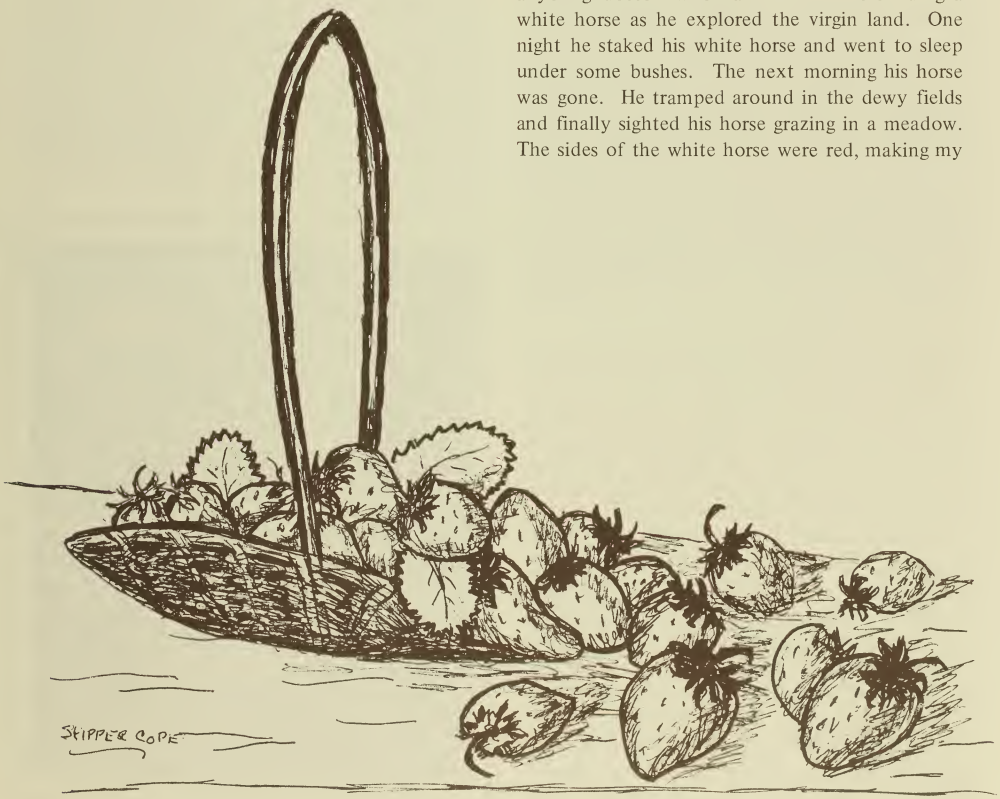
The Passion-Flower was named by those Spanish padres who accompanied the conquistadors to Central America. They felt that the flower parts symbolized the passion (suffering or agony) of Christ. Legends claim that the ten petals (counting sepals) portray the ten loyal apostles. The showy crown of colored filaments represent the halo. The tiny thorn near the tip on the back of each sepal represents the Crown of Thorns. The pistil suggests the cross, and the three stigmas suggest the nails. The leaves and bracts are divided into three parts which are thought to symbolize the Holy Trinity. □

STRAWBERRIES—A VINE

by ROSALIE GARCIA

STRAWBERRY SHORTCAKE! Strawberries and cream! What delectable visions they bring forth! The strawberry is not even a berry; even though it goes by the name "berry", it is a fruit. In order to keep the fruit clean and the soil around the plant moist, a custom of packing straw around the plants added to its name. A gourmet prefers his fruit unwashed, for the natural bloom is a part of the flavor. Juicy, palatable and stimulating to the taste, strawberries make a favorite dessert fruit. Strawberries are members of the rose family, as are the tomato, apple, pyracantha and quince. *Fragaria*, meaning fragrant, is its genus. Strawberries grow wild in all parts of the temperate zone of the Northern Hemisphere. The wild ones are small and sweet and can sometimes be found in the woods and fields of the United States.

One of the stories in my family from the pioneer days (1817) is about a great-grandfather—a young doctor—who came to Arkansas riding a white horse as he explored the virgin land. One night he staked his white horse and went to sleep under some bushes. The next morning his horse was gone. He tramped around in the dewy fields and finally sighted his horse grazing in a meadow. The sides of the white horse were red, making my



young relative wonder if it had been wounded. When he came closer, he saw a carpet of red fruits and deduced that the horse had rolled in the berries for an early morning bath. The young doctor no doubt enjoyed a strawberry breakfast—without cream.

Strawberries were grown in French gardens as early as the 14th century according to aged monastery records. Early colonists in America dug up wild plants to grow in their gardens, but real hybridization and commercial plantings were not general until the last half of the 19th century. In Europe, the English and French led in creating new varieties. According to my friend Frances Figlar, she enjoyed buying baskets of small, very sweet strawberries in Paris last summer. They are much like the wild ones. The three wild varieties are *Fragaria virginiana*—the American one, *F. chilaensis*—the Pacific Coast one, and *F. vesca*—the one from Europe. These were the varieties used in the beginning as crossings. Hundreds of varieties have been created and grown. The trend is to find a variety that will grow best in each area.

The University of California Experiment Station has presented us with the Lassen, Shasta and Sequoia. Since Americans like big strawberries on their tables, the Sequoia is a favorite. They can be so big that fewer than one dozen fruits will fill a basket. It is not the sweetest, but is everbearing, hardy and a pleasure to grow. Many catalogs list up to 20 varieties and Burpee has 18 which it recommends for California climates.

Most of our states have commercial crops, but California leads the nation in shipping and freezing of strawberries. San Diego County has 575 acres planted with this fruit, and in 1972 (U.S. Department of Agriculture Report of Crops in San Diego County) produced a crop valued at $5,506,000. Most of this bonanza crop was produced in the San Luis Rey Valley and in our own North County. Because stoop labor is dwindling, acreage is diminishing, but California has been able to hold its own and San Diego County is actually increasing its production.

Because the fruit is so perishable, and fungi, virus and insects attack it so often, strawberries are a marvel. That we have any in our markets, or that their price is within our reach, makes this fruit even more marvelous. Often times one will find that the frozen ones are less expensive than the fresh ones. This is because there is less loss between field and freezer than from field to market.

The time may soon be coming when all we can afford is what we raise in our own gardens. Enough for a family does not take a lot of space, and growing them is not so difficult as it may seem. According to Burpee's catalog, all a strawberry plant needs is a good light-textured soil six to eight inches deep. A sandy base mixed with humus will not need much fertilizer, but Burpee recommends a feeding of a 5–10–5 fertilizer about six weeks after planting. Two varieties are a staple in our nurseries: Lassen and Sequoia. These are everlasting varieties, which means that they produce a kind of continuous crop over a period of six months. There are early, June, and late varieties, but in our climate the everlasting variety fills our needs best.

One may use the plants as ornamentals with their compound leaves consisting of three hairy, saw-toothed leaflets. Clusters of white flowers on slender stalks rise from the axile of the leaves. The more leaves on the plants, the more fruits. The biggest clumps are the best producers. On Christmas Day of 1973, I gathered a bowl of strawberries from two Sequoia plants, and have had handfuls all through January of this year. They were not so large or so sweet as they will be in warmer weather, but they taste like strawberries.

Strawberries are grown in three ways, all of which fit into any garden—the spaced row, the matted row and the hill. If a sunny space is set apart for the berries, and you like a neat look, choose the spaced row method. It is easier to cultivate, irrigate and harvest. Set the plants about 1½ feet apart, being careful to leave the crown above the soil.

The hill method is useful for a few plants that one may want in a border area, a corner or in a pot. One of the most attractive I have seen is in a bricked bed along the 60-foot south front of Sanford Robert's home near Lake Jennings. The plants were set about a foot apart near the brick edge of the bed. When I was there last April, I saw nearly egg-sized Sequoia berries, clusters of white flowers and there prevailed an aroma that

was most tantalizing. I am sure he picks gallons from that row!

The matted row method is used mostly in a garden as a strawberry bed. This is usually a boxed in space filled with sand and humus and planted in hills. Runners are allowed to grow until the bed is a mass of plants. Old plants are pulled out and some new compost or fertilizer is put in and the bed just grows for about four years. Then, after that length of time, the bed must be dug out and started over again. Colonel Joe McCarter of El Cajon has a fine example of this type from which he produces gallons and gallons of berries.

Experts, usually in other regions, advise pinching off the blossoms the first year, but in our climate, we usually let them bear for two or three years and then renew. Pinching off the runners will help the plants bear the next year, thus keeping the rows going. I do not advise buying plants with little strawberries already set or even ripe—no matter how cute they look—for such early bearing weakens the plant.

After planting, put a good mulch around the plants. Their roots are shallow and the soil needs to be moist at all times. If straw is not available, pine needles are a good substitute. The acid in them is not detrimental in our alkaline soil. Strawberries in a garden often are neglected in the late summer when it is hot. If the plants get too dry, they do not recover. Keep the dried leaves picked off too.

In an Eastern catalog widely distributed in this area, a beautifully espaliered strawberry is advertised with a tantalizing abundance of berries. Many varieties produce runners, which would lead one to believe that they would climb up a trellis. I know several who have fallen for this dream of having a beautiful vining plant. However, I have yet to see a strawberry on any of them!

Strawberries do have seeds. They are near the surface of the flesh, but they are generally not used except by propagators. One old variety is grown from seed as an annual, and in this climate sometimes as a perennial. It is small, sweet, and has a white berry named Baron Solemacher, probably for a Swiss gentleman who first introduced it, as it is classed in Burpee as an Alpine. My friend Gen Scudder has grown them in San Diego. She was inspired by a Minnesota grandmother who grew them and served them floating in heavy cream about the color of the berry. They were sweet, fragrant and distinctive in flavor.

Although strawberries are mostly eaten fresh or frozen, they have other uses. Tons go into jams and jellies. There used to be a jam factory on 15th Street here in San Diego during the 40's which I delighted in visiting. There were rows of big steel vats set in steam chambers like a double boiler. Barrels of strawberries, mostly from Oregon in those days, were dumped into these vats with sugar. They cooked slowly and were stirred with wooden paddles as big as oars. I took a childish delight in being allowed to go down the row and stir. The aroma was enchanting. An old fashioned sun preserve turned up at the Herb Society luncheon last December. I did not learn who made it, but my friend Lulu Whited, a professional home canner, tells me that all one does to make this preserve is to crush equal amounts of strawberries and sugar, spread out in a flat non-metal container, cover with an old window pane and set in the sun. It is done when the berries and sugar are melded into a jellied mass. How long this takes depends on the sun, but six or seven good sunny days should do it; the containers are brought in at night.

Strawberry shortcake is on the menu so often in restaurants that one expects it to be a staple. For this delightful dessert, crushed berries are placed between layers of cake and topped with whipped cream. But, real short cake, as the original recipe calls for, is still the best in my opinion. "Short" in baking means with plenty of butter. My grandmother took two cups of flour, two eggs, almost a cup of butter and enough milk to make a dough which she rolled out real thin and baked in the bottom of a pie tin. It came out fragrant, round, crisp, and lightly browned. She had a bowl of crushed strawberries from which she would scoop one layer of berries on a round of pastry, then place another crispy round of pastry on top of that, and then more strawberries, and then still another crisp, making it three layers tall. She then cut it in wedges, and passed around a pitcher of thick yellow cream to pour over the dessert. That was strawberry shortcake! □

MANDEVILLA VINES

by SKIPPER COPE

MANDEVILLA IS A VINE whose recent rise in popularity is as spectacular as it's flowers. Its beautiful rose-pink trumpets are up to three or four inches in diameter, and truly are breathtaking. Another endearing feature of this vine is that it produces those lovely blooms from April through November—imagine, over six months of gorgeous color!

They are an evergreen vine with dark green oval leaves with the flowers appearing in clusters. Many are grown in containers supported by a trellis and make a wonderful addition to patios or atriums. My daughter has one beside her front door entrance to greet everyone who comes to her home.

The hybrid *Mandevilla 'Alice du Pont' (Mandevilla splendens, Dipladenia splendens,* and *D. amoena)* is the variety that I first saw at the Del Mar Fair three or four years ago. Later, I planted one on my terrace where it has been growing happily ever since on an eight foot trellis. They like a peaty-sandy loam and plenty of water. They will die if they get dry, but be sure they have excellent drainage because soggy soil is fatal as well. This vine just doesn't like extremes!

Plant them with the crown high like a camellia and mulch well. Part sun and shade or filtered sun is fine and they can be grown in full sun on the coast, but the flowers will be a deeper color if there is shade.

Last July, I purchased a variety in a basket. *Mandevilla uveria* whose leaves are a little lighter shade of green, has stems that appear to be heavier so instead of twining, they arch gracefully. I was told to be sure to keep them pinched back to promote fullness. My new addition was hung on the southeast side of the house where it is protected from the wind and gets the morning sun. Amazingly, it is still blooming in January.

These lovely vines seem to be quite disease resistant. The only pest I was warned of was red spider. Fortunately, I have not had to contend with these as yet.

Another member of the family is the *Mandevilla suaveolens*, or as it is popularly called, Chilean Jasmine. It is a deciduous vine with white, two inch flowers. Sometimes growing to fifteen feet, the flowers of this vine are extremely fragrant.

Although there are at least one hundred varieties of this vine growing from Mexico to South America, I have found only the ones named here available in nurseries. According to Western Garden Book, mandevilla now includes plants that were formerly called *Dipladenia*. They are not plentiful, but once in a while you can find a *Dipladenia splendens*. (Many nurseries still use this name.) They grow in a more upright form and are every bit as showy and satisfactory as a hybrid mandevilla—my experience indicates they are even hardier. Since they do not need support, they can be used where a trellis would be unsuitable. So, there is a mandevilla to meet many different landscape needs.

These plants were named for a British ambassador in Buenos Aires. I haven't been able to find out when he was there or what he did to deserve this honor, but I should think he would have been very proud and happy to have such beautiful plants bear his name. They truly are a joy to behold! □

CREATING A BONSAI

by SIMONNE DALY
SHIRLEY HOSIER

OUR ARTIST is Inor Forney, an illustrator of children's books who studied painting in Paris and Japan.

A BONSAI IS AN imitation of nature in miniature.

Small leaved trees are chosen for bonsai. Satisfactory plants for this area are the *Ginkgo biloba, Liquidambar styraciflua,* Atlas Cedar, Pomegranate (not the dwarf one), Evergreen Elm and the Japanese Black Pine. *Juniperus procumbens 'Nana', J.p. 'San Jose', J.p. 'Prostrata'* and some other types are very popular bonsai subjects. The *Ginkgo* and *Liquidambar* species mentioned can be defoliated in late spring to make the leaves smaller.

Trimming and shaping is done before potting. Finding the front of the tree is very important. It should be the most balanced side. A good view of the main trunk is desirable. The formal upright style similar to the illustration is the easiest to do. The top should be erect, in other styles it leans a little forward. Leave about one-third of the trunk showing. Starting at the bottom of the tree, the first branch will be the longest; the second branch is opposite but a little higher. Alternate the branches all the way to the top. Be sure to have back branches. Since the first branch is the longest, the branches should become shorter and denser towards the top. The tree outline should form an irregular triangle.

To wire a bonsai, use only copper wire one-third the size of the branch. Insert the wire through the holes in the bottom of the container to give the tree stability or, push it into the soil about one inch. Space wiring 3/8 of an inch apart to give support. Hold the branch with your left hand, guide the wire up with your right hand while twisting two or three turns. Do not wind

too tightly. Make even turns and spacing with no sharp bends or angles. Do not cross the wires. Leave the wire on for about six months.

Use a good soil, sand, and peat moss mixed with leaf mold. Be sure to screen the soil. To trim the roots, use a chopstick in a downward motion to gently remove about two-thirds of the soil. One inch of the roots extending from the remaining soil should be left. Cut roots on a slant for best results.

Pots in somber colors are used except for flowering bonsai. Homemade pots should follow traditional shapes. The length of the pot is two-thirds of the tree height. An upright tree usually requires a rectangular container.

For proper planting, use 1/8 inch mesh to cover drainage holes of the pot. A little pea gravel is added for drainage. Sprinkle the soil until the pot is about three-fourths full. The tree is then placed either to the right or the left side of the container towards the back. This placement is for an upright tree. Gently work the tree into the soil. A chopstick is used to work the soil around the tree until there are no holes between the roots. Leave 1/4 inch exposed from the rim of the pot to allow for watering. Soak the bonsai for about fifteen minutes in a large container of water. The water should be deep enough to cover the pot almost to the rim. At the same time, sprinkle the leaves of the bonsai, being careful not to wash away the soil. Keep the plant in a shady place for about a week. Dried moss sifted on the bonsai will produce a fine green covering.

Your bonsai is an outdoor plant. It may be brought indoors for a day or two. Place your bonsai on a bench in your garden where it will get morning sun and afternoon shade. Water every day except on rainy days. Be sure that the water comes out of the drainage holes. Remember to sprinkle the foliage too.

Deciduous and flowering trees should be repotted every year in the spring. Evergreens in larger pots should be done over every three or four years; smaller bonsai trees (four inches or smaller) should be done over every year.

Feed your bonsai a good organic fertilizer one-half strength one month after transplanting. Follow the manufacturer's directions and start in April and end in October.

To exhibit your bonsai, always place the container on some kind of stand. The size of the stand should be twice the size of your pot. The best bet is a piece of polished or stained wood—never cement blocks. Stones are frowned upon unless needed to balance a tree or to simulate an extension of its roots. A small herb or rock planting may accompany the larger bonsai. In your home, the bonsai is best placed in an alcove next to a scroll of calligraphy. □

§ C W S §

A BARE POST supporting an overhead trellis or clothes line can be a thing of beauty. It's easy—plant a vine or shrub to break up the stark lines.

For example, say you have four supporting posts, try planting Star Jasmine. The four shrubs take about a year to establish and start climbing with real enthusiasm. In the second year you will have the posts cloaked with crisp green foliage. Star Jasmine's myriad pinwheels of bloom will dispense a marvelous fragrance in late spring and early summer.

Roses, of course, are another excellent answer to the problem. A climbing one aided by a stout cord, will twine up a garden lamp post and literally convert that post into a pillar of bloom. Against a fence post or a fan-shaped trellis, pillar roses are without peer for providing a show of color.

Vines—especially shrubbier ones like Star Jasmine—are suited to pillar and post planting. Flowers and foliage are both small on Carolina Jessamine, but there certainly is nothing insignificant about the effect this vine creates. The plant in bloom is spectacular. The Guinea Gold Vine may be too tender for some inland gardens but where it is sold, its large golden blooms and deep green foliage are worth a post in your garden. Spanish Jasmine and Cape Honeysuckle are two others. As for the more rampantly climbing vines, there's no reason at all you can't plant them on a post and train them up on a trellis or eave overhead. Most of them stand considerable cutting back, and if they get out of hand, you can always wield the shears. That job will keep you in shape as well as your vines! □

GROWING SHOW ROSES

by SUE STREEPER

Sue Streeper has been growing and exhibiting roses with her husband for twelve years. She is also an excellent rose judge.

EXHIBITING IN A FLOWER SHOW is fun and exciting, and it's not as hard to do as you might have feared! Prize-winning roses come from well cared for plants. By this time of year, you have probably established a watering, fertilizing, and spraying schedule that fits your climate and soil. It is important to give your roses all the water they want, and a weekly deep watering is the customary method. Overhead watering has become very popular in recent years, since the plants do respond well to the cooling effect on hot days. However, as show time approaches and buds begin to open, overhead watering has to be discontinued in order to prevent blemished flowers.

Everyone's fertilizing routine varies with individual preferences and available time. Granular or liquid fertilizers are both used with good success. Many growers prefer to feed with smaller amounts of fertilizer given more often than the directions advise. Granular fertilizer need to be well scratched into the soil around the base of the plant and watered in thoroughly.

Your experience may have shown you what disease prevention program will be necessary in your garden. For an April show, we are picking the early blooms of the season and may find that disease and insect problems are at a minimum. If you want to spray to eradicate problems you have seen crop up in the past, water well first and use your spray at one-half recommended strength to avoid burning the foliage. Spray in the morning before mid-day heat can contribute to damaging.

Apids and bud-eating worms are probably spring's most annoying insect problems. Daily inspections of your garden can keep you alerted to the beginning of an infestation. Gardeners who prefer not to use poisonous sprays have had satisfactory results using a fine spray of plain water from a hose nozzle. If rose bushes are washed off in this manner every day or two, aphids will be knocked off the buds and disease will not have the chance to become established. Worms can be picked off when they are tiny, before they have had an opportunity to burrow through your choice rosebuds.

No matterwhichmethod you use to keep your plants disease-free, you will want to wash them off several days before the show to be sure that the foliage is clean and free from any dirt or spray residue. This is easily accomplished with the hose. Planning ahead will prevent a major cleaning job for your roses on show morning.

You should be familiar with the differing types of bushes in your garden and realize that you must enter some kinds of roses disbudded. All hybrid teas must be grown one bloom to a stem, so any side buds on a hybrid tea must be removed as soon as you see them in your garden. If disbudded when the side bud is as small as a piece of rice or perhaps a citrus seed, there will be no evidence of the disbudding on the rose you pick. Grandifloras can be entered one bloom to a stem or as a spray, with the ideal spray having several blooms all at least half open. Floribundas are normally shown as a spray, with the ideal cluster chosing many blooms in all stages of development. The bulk of entries are one stem per exhibit, but the show schedule will tell you where there are opportunities to show three of a kind or six of a kind together.

During the week or two before the show, you will want to pay close attention to the special blooms coming along in your garden. On Thursday before a Saturday show, give your plants a deep watering so the stems will be full of water as you pick on Friday. This is also a good time to select the blooms you think you will be picking for the show. Take into your garden a bundle of paper strips about one inch by ten inches with a slit cut near one end. Write the name of the rose, its type (HT or Gr or Fl) and its color class if you know it, then put the label around the rose stem and pull through the slit. At picking time late Friday afternoon you will have your roses easily located by their white tags and correctly identified to help you on Saturday.

Late Friday afternoon or Friday evening you will want to pick your show entries. Take a

bucket of cold water out in the garden and cut your entries with fairly long stems (eighteen inches or so if that seems in proportion to the bloom), on a diagonal cut. Immerse your stems nearly up to the blooms and keep in a cool place overnight. You can prevent most damage to foliage at this point by wrapping each rose stem in a square of heavy plastic or waxed paper before putting it in the bucket with other roses.

On show morning, rise early and plan to get to the entry area with plenty of time to spare. Upon arrival, obtain an official show schedule, entry tags, the "Buyer's Guide" to determine official color and class of your rose, and containers used to make entries. Anyone can enter a rose show. For those who are new to all this, other exhibitors will be happy to help you make your entries and answer your questions. Have fun with your preparations for entering shows. You will find that exhibiting adds one more dimension to your love of the rose! □

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A WATER GARDEN

by WALTER PAGELS

GARDEN PONDS come in many forms and serve various functions. In their simplest forms, they serve as reflecting pools, or as an integrated part of the building architecture. The water is kept sterile with chemicals, and the pond has no ecology. A more common usage is as a formal display receptacle for certain exotic plants or animals. Many ponds are now being constructed to exhibit the Japanese Colored Carp (Koi) which have a range of colors and patterns that rival most flowers. These ponds have a very limited ecology.

Finally, a garden pond is used to represent a natural pond or lake in miniature to complete a landscape design. Here the ecology is most complex because the environment affords many niches for a variety of organisms.

An example of the simplest (and therefore most unstable) garden pond, is the bare concrete water basin containing only fish. If untreated, it does not take long for the water to have an algae bloom, a condition where the water turns dark green, obscuring the fish. Changing the water is only a temporary solution, because the blooms will only return again sooner. With heroic efforts such a pond can be maintained clean and sparkling by a combination of contrivances such as over head shade to reduce the algae growth rate and keep the water from overheating, chemicals to kill the algae without (hopefully) adversely affecting the fish, a pump and filter system to strain out the dirt, dead algae and fish debris, medication to prevent a plague from spreading among the crowded fish population, aeration to add oxygen, activated charcoal to purify the water of metabolic wastes, a pool vacuum to pick up the heavier debris from the bottom, and food pellets to supplement the minimum amount of natural food available. As long as the pond keeper is regular in cleaning his filters and keeps alert to changing requirements, the pond can be maintained successfully—but not naturally.

At the other end of the spectrum is the natural pond which is self-sufficient. This can only be approached with the garden pond because of its small size and the concentration of plants and animals desired by the homeowner. A study of the natural pond is helpful, however, to gain perspective on how to achieve a semblance of an ecological balance.

Most natural ponds have a gradual increase in depth from the shoreline, and various plants have become specialized in filling these successive depths. In the shallows are the emergent plants such as cattails, pickeral weeds, and arrowheads. As the water depth increases, we find the floating leaved plants such as the water lilies, lotus, and spatterdocks. Finally, as the water depth exceeds five feet, we have the completely submerged plants such as foxtail, water celery, and pond weed. Dispersed throughout the water are free-swimming algae, and floating between the lily pads are the duck weeds, water velvet, and fairy moss.

When the pond is self-sufficient, all the organisms interrelate to stabilize the environment. The floating leaved plants shade the water to keep the temperature moderate, clams and water fleas strain the water for algae, underwater plants absorb nitrogenous wastes and provide hiding places for the water fleas, shrimp and prawns, small fish search among the plants for the water fleas as food, larger fish strain the sand for small clams and water insects, snails crawl up the lily stems to eat the decaying older leaves, and the leaches reach out to feast on the snails—and so it goes—on and on and on. Stability is maintained by numerous checks and balances. The loss of any one plant or animal has only a slight effect on the whole. Even if an entire species disappears, there is enough overlap for the void to be filled by another species.

Many creatures visit the garden pond uninvited and fill ecological niches. The majority are insects since they enjoy the power of flight. The most conspicuous are the dragon and damsel flies. They are always on the search for open water in which to lay their eggs. A common insect, but one that is rarely noticed, is the midge—a tiny harmless fly whose young make tubular homes in the water and eat the algae growing on the pond plants. If the pond is near a wild canyon, it could be visited by tree frogs which fill the evenings with their loud croaking. Birds also come to drink and bathe in the shallows and incidently transport microscopic animals on their feet. An occasional snake will wander in and dine on a frog or two—which hardly will be missed. Unfortunately, the snake is also partial to small fish, which may be carrying this ecology thing a bit too far—if the fish happens to be a choice one.

Many of the unintentional visitors come by way of "introduced" plants. Snail eggs, algae, and even fish eggs are often attached to stems and

leaves of water lilies from the nursery. It is also possible for the pond owner to inoculate his pond with desirable inhabitants by visiting an established pond or lake and dipping a fine meshed net among the shallows. The big danger in this is that fish enemies may also be introduced. A field book on freshwater life will be helpful. However, no amount of inoculation will be satisfactory if the conditions do not suit the new arrivals. Primary requirements for the smaller animals are sanctuaries from the predatory fish. These may be roots of the floating water hyacinth or a thick growth of underwater plants. Mosquito larvae which need open water surfaces to breathe are still picked off easily by the smaller fish.

Thus the gardener can mold the environment of the pond to achieve the desired results. A certain amount of experimentation is necessary. What works well in one pond will not necessarily work as well in another–even in the same yard–because of subtle differences in water depths, amount of shade, and present inhabitants which may already have adequately filled a particular ecological niche.

The homeowner still has to fill some of the niches himself if he wishes to keep the pond from following its natural tendency to turn into a marsh. In the wilds, the excess growth of water lilies and lotus is kept in check by the moose, muskrats, moths and beetles; the arrowheads are cropped by ducks; cattails are controlled by crayfish and excess fish by other fish. The gardener could hardly have access to one-tenth of a moose to help crop his water lilies occasionally. The workings of the beetles, moths, ducks and lice are not particularly pleasing. Therefore, the gardener has to fill in these ecological deficiencies himself.

A fine but stiff spray from the garden hose helps to dislodge Aphis from the leaves, but if the fish have been too well fed with store-bought food, they may ignore the floating Aphis. A restrained hand on feeding will often cure this problem.

The transition of a garden pond into a marsh is often accelerated because of the vigorous plant growth and the artificial feeding of the animal inhabitants. If the gardener does not restrict the plantings or intervene to remove the excess plants and accumulated debris, the open water would be completely choked with plants in less than one year. It is possible by judicious choice of plants and animals to keep a pond virtually unchanging and maintenance free for years. However, this is often not a desirable solution because the range of plants is restricted–some of the most colorful (and moderately priced) water plants are also the most vigorous growers.

The freshwater algae are a scourge to the pond owner, whether as isolated cells (green water) or arranged in strings (blanket weed). There are hundreds of species, most arriving at the pond as spores, although many are transplanted by flying aquatic insects or on the feet of birds. The free swimming kind are nearly impossible to see individually, but collectively, they cause a greenish colored water. If the water is especially rich in nutrients, they can obscure from view any object more than a few inches below the surface. Gardeners seeking an easy solution, may attempt the various brands of propriatory algicides. These are only temporary solutions at best and, because of the varying resistance of the different species to algae, may clear up one pond and have a negligible effect on the next. An ecologically balanced pond does not permit algae to gain an upper hand.

After the annual cleaning, a garden pond has to begin over again in its maturing process. If none of the previous minor inhabitants survived the cleaning, the new pond ecology may be radically different from the previous year. When new water is added, a few spores of green algae may soon cause a green soupy condition if no water fleas are present to control it. This in turn shades the sun from the underwater leafy plants, which then die, adding their nutrients to the water and further accentuating the problem. With a few warm days, the green water shades itself, and at night may remove more oxygen from the water than it produces. This results in a fish kill that is not discovered until the next morning. With no understanding of what happened, the frustrated pond owner may just cover up the pond and be done with it. □

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A LOCAL JUNGLE GARDEN

by BILL GUNTHER

SEVEN BIG ALLIGATORS wallow in the murky water of the large pond behind the massive residence. Tortoises sun themselves on the adjacent mudbank. Surrounding the home and the pond is jungle, and in that jungle more than 100 different species of palms are growing. (Yes, more than 100 SPECIES!)

From that description, one might guess that the locale is central Africa, and that the home is the residence of a great tribal chief—but far from it. The locale is a hilltop in San Diego County—on the outskirts of Vista to be exact—and the owner/resident is a local veterinarian named Dr. Darian.

The alligators, the palms, the landscaping and gardening of this multi-acre jungle (and the maintenance of it all) is a personal hobby of Dr. Darian's with most of the work being done in his spare time. To him, spare time is that time which remains after meeting the combined needs of a large family and a six-day-a-week professional business. Obviously it comes either very early in the morning or else in the evening. However, the very impressive results of his "spare time" labor thus reflect the fact that he uses his time more effectively than most of us. For one thing, he certainly doesn't spend much time sitting in front of a TV tube.

Just as time can be wasted with TV, so can space be wasted with words. Photographs tell the story of Dr. Darian's garden better and faster than words. The captioned photos which illustrate this article show only fragments of a setting which can best be appreciated by a live tour. We hope that before long this magazine will be able to announce a tour which will include Dr. Darian's garden. If you see such an announcement, we suggest you send in your reservation promptly.□

Photos by BILL GUNTHER

ABOVE RIGHT

A view of Dr. Darian's "jungle".

RIGHT

Dr. Mardy Darian holds a newly opening frond of a rare palm which has leaves with variegated colors of red and green.

ABOVE The largest room in Dr. Darian's home is the palm room; it is a built-in greenhouse which accomodates a swimming pool as well as many tropical palms which cannot tolerate the cool winters of Vista. These two photos feature the palm room interior and exterior.

LEFT

Palms of the genus Caryota, native to Asia, have the common name "Fishtail Palm" because of their finely divided frond segments which resemble fishtails. These three specimens, in Dr. Darian's garden, are probably the largest in this area.

BOTTOM LEFT

One of the alligators suns himself at water's edge in Dr. Darian's garden.

BOTTOM RIGHT

Different palm species show individuality in blossoms as well as in form of frond. This the the blossom of the "Shaving Brush" palm.

This article is reprinted from CALIFORNIA GARDEN Vol. 59 No. 4 / Aug.-Sept. 1968.

Spuria Hybridizer Eleanor McCown of Holtville, California stands by a corner of her award-winning educational display, "Spuria Ballet."

Spurias in the Garden

by Eleanor McCown, Iris Hybridizer

EVERY YEAR new varieties of spurias are introduced, differing in color or form or size from earlier introductions. Since this has been going on for a good many years, there is today a wide selection from which to choose.

I have been growing spurias for about twenty-five years and I began to wonder, if I were to start from scratch with a new garden, which spurias would I choose and how and where would I plant them? Checking through the listed varieties I realized that there were a great many that I had never seen and another long list of older ones that had grown in my garden but for one reason or another had disappeared from the scene. This still left enough varieties to fill a rather large garden.

Where would I plant them all and how? Since spurias can be left in one location for many years I should plan well before planting.

They're Tall

Most spurias are on the tall side, from three to six feet, so must be placed in the background of a border garden or in the center of a circular bed. They also look well in clumps planted as drifts in the lawn or near a pool. They should always have at least half a day of sun. They do very well in full sun and require lots of water during late winter and early spring months growing season, so close planting to trees should be avoided.

During the summer months, following bloom (which extends from the last of March through May in this area) they are semi-dormant and need little water so, if possible, they should be planted with this in mind.

During the long winter and spring months when the spurias are a mass of dark green leaves they look well as background for colorful annuals such as petunias. In the summer when the foliage gradually dies off and turns brown, companion plants should be close by to cover up the area. Daylilies make excellent companion plants, also dormant shrubs such as the dwarf Crepe Myrtle and Dwarf Pomegranate would help to fill in the space.

I think I would group the spurias in clumps of from three to five varieties, using plants of smiliar coloring in each clump. A few outstanding varieties would be nice as specimen plantings.

Suggested Groupings

Starting with the white varieties, I would group together three of the leading varieties, **White Heron, Wakerobin** and **Morningtide.** Wakerobin grows the tallest of the three in my garden so I would place it in the middle. White Heron is an older but very reliable bloomer, often having four open blooms. Both Wakerobin and White Heron have white standards and falls with a yellow signal. Wakerobin has a larger flower. Morningtide has a faint bluish cast and lovely form, but is still classified as white. All three are mid-season bloomers with White Heron outlasting the other two.

In another group I would plant **Lydia Jane, Windfall, Imperial Song,** and **Dawn Candle.** These are all fairly recent introductions, the first three having similar coloring, with creamy white standards and falls with a large deep yellow signal. Lydia Jane is lightly ruffled, Windfall a generous bloomer and Imperial Song, a large flower with heavy substance and good branching. Dawn Candle is the earliest to bloom, has a lovely form with creamy white standards and falls light yellow with a deeper splash of orange at the signal, a real bi-color. It and Windfall are a little taller than the other two. Windfall and Lydia Jane are mid-season bloomers and Imperial Song is a late bloomer.

Wide Range of Yellows

For the yellows, I would have a wide range to choose from and since all are vigorous it would be difficult to narrow it down to three or four varieties.

Elixir is especially vigorous and I think I would find a place for it by itself. While the flowers are of medium size, they are well formed and a very deep yellow orange in color. While not the first to bloom, it is an early bloomer and because of the exceptional branching, with sometimes as many as twelve flowers to the stalk. Often four are in bloom at one time. Elixir continues to bloom un-

til almost the last of the season.

Orange Maid is also a deep yellow orange, with larger flowers but not as many to the stalk. The flowers have good texture and starts blooming in mid-season continuing until late May. It would also make a nice lone planting.

Wadi Zem Zem, Golden Lady, and **Yellow Wings** would make a good group. Yellow Wings is the earliest, a nice large flower, lightly ruffled and medium yellow. Golden Lady is still tops among the yellows with medium yellow fairly large flowers. Wadi Zem Zem is a pale yellow with heavy substance and wide leaves. It is shorter than the others so could be planted in front of them.

Nearly Blue

While no spuria could be called a true blue, all having a purple shading, some are nearer blue than others. I think I would group together **Blue Pinafore, Moon by Day, Imperial Ruffles** and **Neophyte.** Neophyte, the tallest, could be in the center. It has medium-sized flowers, the standards a strong blue violet and the falls cream with lavender veining. Moon by Day is a little shorter and would be nice in front with its light blue standards and almost white falls. These are both early to mid-season bloomers. Blue Pinafore, an older variety, is generous with lightly ruffled medium-blue flowers with a small signal. Imperial Ruffles, also a near-blue, has quite noticeable ruffling and good branching with often four open blooms at a time. Both are mid-season.

Lavender Blues

Another companion clump of lavender blue spurias would be **Farolito, Arbitrator** and **Imperial Flight.** Farolito has nice large flowers with light violet standards and orange yellow falls edged violet. Arbitrator is a large and heavy textured flower, striking because of the prominent deep purple veining on the lavender standards and bright yellow falls. These two are mid-season bloomers and a little taller than Imperial Flight which is a vivid blue lavender, the standards very erect and the falls stiffly held. Flight has good branching and is one of the last to bloom.

A Good Old-Timer

No collection of spurias would be complete without the old-timer, **Premier.** While the flower is rather small, it is very colorful with deep blue-violet standards and falls. The signal patch is light yellow with a nice pattern of lavender lines. A generous bloomer, Premier has exceptional branching and blooms from mid-season until the last of the season. This would look well planted by itself near a pool or as a drift in the lawn.

Blue Nightshade and **Thrush Song** would be good companions with very similar coloring and both blooming with the last of the spurias. Both have deep violet-blue standards and falls and the falls have an unusual color mixture of yellow and brown in the signal. Thrush Song is a little larger.

Beautiful Browns

One of the loveliest colors in the spurias is the brown. While the range of varieties is not as wide as in other colors, there are still enough to make it difficult to know which to choose. I think I would choose to place together **Cherokee Chief, Perky Maid, Driftwood, Chumash Chief** and **Dark and Handsome.** I would center Driftwood, the tallest, in the back. The flowers are large and well-formed and a lovely golden brown in color. Cherokee Chief and Perky Maid while quite old varieties are still distinctive in their own way. Cherokee Chief has medium-sized flowers, golden brown in color and blooms over a long period of time starting mid-season. Perky Maid is really a yellow with heavy brown veining. The medium-sized flowers are nicely ruffled. Chumash Chief is the darkest of the browns, a large flower with a very small signal. Dark and Handsome, one of the newest, is a bi-color with dark-brown standards and falls deep yellow heavily veined brown. All are mid-season.

While no spuria is really red, there are several new varieties that are a deep reddish purple and I would want to include them in the garden. **Red Oak, Fireplace,** and **Imperial Burgundy** would make good companions.

Then, of course, there are some spurias that defy classification as to color. **Zephroso,** another old-timer that I would always have has ecru and lavender standards that can only be described as opalescent. The falls are similarly colored with a very small signal. A nicely formed medium-sized ruffled flower.

Connoisseur, one of the newest of introductions, has very large flowers. They could be called copper in color and take on added luster under artificial lights, with lavender-tinged standards and vivid amethyst-style crests.

While this would complete my selections from varieties already introduced I would have to leave space for some of the new ones that will be introduced in the future.

Mr. Ferguson had two outstanding white and yellow seedlings that won best of show, 1968, at Arcadia and San Diego. Another seedling he exhibited at the San Diego show was a deep velvety purple that could be outstanding. Another that I saw blooming in his garden is being introduced this year as **Landscape Blue.** It is as near blue as any spuria so far, with nicely formed large flowers. It is a must for my collection.

Mr. Hager has a new introduction this year that sounds delightful. With caramel coloring and small signal, the flowers are of a new form, with wide but short standards, and wide falls with a very short style arm, making a compact rounded flower. This seedling he has named **Woodwind.**

Pilley's Gardens will introduce my newest one called **Highline Lavender.** This too is a compact flower of similar form to Woodwind with medium lavender standards and falls, the signal patch a light yellow. ■

Highline Lavender is a fine example of the compact shape in spurias. In addition to its fine shape, this iris also displays a beautiful lavender color which is a rarity among its kind. Hybridized by Eleanor McCown and introduced this year. (Note: This was incorrectly identified in the June-July, 1968 issue, on page 31.)

THE MORNING GLORY

by GREGG KNAPP

Gregg, at age 24 is our youngest contributor. He is an aspiring linguist who mixes long-distance running with wordplay and gardening.

LAST JULY, while lounging amidst the good people of Ocean Beach, I decided I had to grow my own vegetable garden–it being not only the thing to do, but ecological and cheaper than discount as well. The location I chose was ideal–bordered on the west side by a five-foot fence and fully exposed to the sun by mid-morning. The neighbors had merely to peer over and admire and give comment on my beautiful verdant veggies! Came August and the ground was a blanket of bountiful zucchini leaves, rampant scallions and traversing tomato plants. Lushness! Salads!

Far from sated, I hungered for the intangible, something that would complement and balance my work; accent the legumes of my labor, as it were. Along the garden's edge trailed a straggling weed which seemed to be crawling nowhere but up the stark naked fence! I let it continue and it grew purple-blue funnel-shaped flowers that were open in the morning and closed tight by noon, only to re-open often in the early evening. It was perfect ground cover and would encircle the fence supports and poles, twining upwards around them but only in a counter-clockwise direction. That was not a weed, of course, but the common Morning Glory, a vine.

Morning Glory, or *Ipomoea*, heads a list of some 500 annual and perennial vines. Most popular of all annual vines, the common Morning Glory (*Ipomoea purpurea*) thrives in a sunny location, good heavy soil and moderate watering. Very little attention is required after planting. Before planting the seeds, (and you need do it only once as the Morning Glory re-seeds itself) nick the tough skin with a knife to speed sprouting and sow three to four inches apart in warm soil. It may be best to hold off sowing the seeds until mid-March when the cold is sure to have subsided.

The Morning Glory comes in various shapes and sizes. The leaves of the fragile-looking vine are heart-shaped and much smaller than the leaves of a popular perennial *Ipomoea tricolor*. The flowers are identical except for the latter's pure sky blue color. Appropriately called Heavenly Blue, *Ipomoea tricolor* can twine as high as twenty feet. Like all perennial Morning Glories, this one does not re-seed itself. To start new plants, just break off a runner above the node, insert it in the ground and it grows.

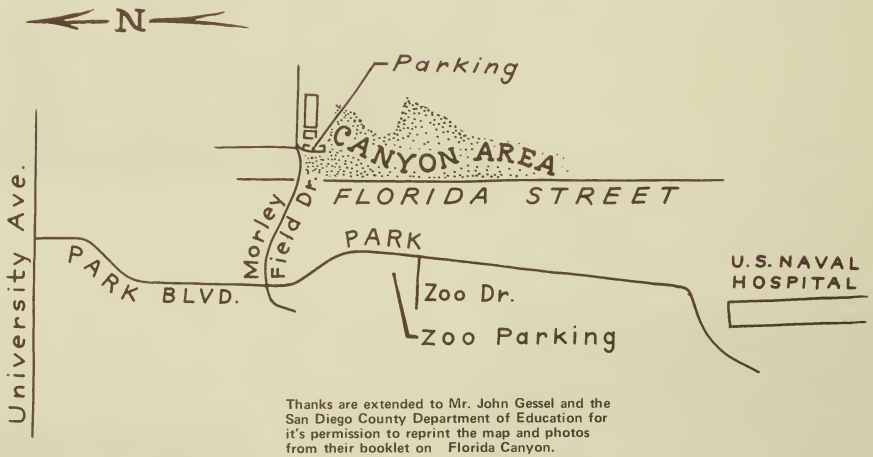
Though it's usually added for its good looks–on a fence, trellis or as edging–the Morning Glory has two quite productive relatives: the sweet potato, *Ipomoea batatas* and *jalap, I. purga*, whose root has strong purgative properties.

The most beautiful type of Morning Glory, with its bright and richly shaded flowers, is the Japanese Morning Glory. Its foliage is deeply lobed, the growth is slightly more dwarf and the vine branches more freely. The main drawback is that it must be grown in containers and requires feeding and special care.

So the next time you get those aesthetic hunger pangs, treat your garden to a fence streaming with twining vines and oodles of luscious, funnel-shaped Morning Glory blossoms. □

A WALK IN FLORIDA CANYON

by HELEN WITHAM



Thanks are extended to Mr. John Gessel and the San Diego County Department of Education for it's permission to reprint the map and photos from their booklet on Florida Canyon.

"WHAT IS A NATURE TRAIL?" I asked this question of a young visitor to Florida Canyon. She replied, "It's a trail in some nature."

In simplest terms, that's about it. A nature trail is a trail through a natural area, where the surroundings are not constructed or controlled by man. Such a trail offers the opportunity to become part of a natural environment for a short while and to get acquainted with nature on her own ground.

This is possible right in Balboa Park where part of Florida Canyon remains very much as nature designed it. Over a hundred years ago, most of the central hills of San Diego as well as its mesas and canyons looked much like Florida Canyon does now. The same types of plants grew there—hawks and hummingbirds flew overhead and quail and rabbit ran through the brush as they do here today.

Balboa Park has been a city park since 1868, although it was not formally named Balboa until the year 1910. As the city grew and the park was developed in stages, most of the native plants were cleared from park lands and replaced by lawn, flowers, and trees native to other parts of the world. Since there was never enough money to develop all of the park at once and to maintain it, Florida Canyon was always left over for development at some later date. It is due to this happy circumstance that we still have a natural area large enough to accommodate a system of trails where we can meet nature face to face. Presently, two trails are nearly completed and a third one is now under construction. Volunteer guides called "Florida Canyoneers" have been specially trained by the Natural History Museum to help visitors explore the trails and enjoy the native vegetation and wildlife that abounds in the area. Of course no one need worry about meeting a coyote or a deer around the next curve. In so small a habitat the wildlife comes in smaller sizes—nothing larger than a seldom-seen gray fox or fat opossum. These and some of the other small mammals are nocturnal, but daytime visitors usually see rabbits, ground squirrels, many kinds of birds, lizards at certain seasons, and myriad insects.

Not all of the "nature" flies or scurries. Most of it—the vegetation—just stands there quietly

going through its life cycle. In Florida Canyon the plants as well as the animals come in small-to-medium sizes for the simple reason that nature didn't organize much water or good soil in this particular section of the Earth. So whatever plants you see as you follow the trails are of a type that can survive in shallow rocky soil with scanty rainfall. The steep north slopes of the small finger canyons off the main canyon are covered with a dense chaparral. The south and west facing slopes are more thinly clothed with the mixture of small shrubs and herbaceous plants called coastal sage scrub.

The chaparral community consists mainly of Coast White Lilac (*Ceanothus verrucosus*), Toyon (*Heteromeles arbutifolia*), Lemonade Berry (*Rhus integrifolia*), Redberry (*Rhamnus crocea*), Scrub Oak (*Quercus dumosa*), and Chamise (*Adenostoma fasciculatum*).

Encelia (*Encelia californica*). Flowers yellow.

Prickly Pear (*Opuntia occidentalis*).

Laurel Sumac (*Rhus laurina*). Flowers white, tiny.

Wild Cucumber (*Marah macrocarpus*). Flowers greenish white, fruits green and spiny.

Coast Manzanita (*Xylococcus bicolor*). Note how one branch has naturally become grafted to another, forming a closed loop.

The woody plants of the coastal sage scrub here are mostly Black Sage (*Salvia mellifera*), White Sage (*Salvia apiana*), California Sagebrush (*Artemisia californica*), Flat-top Buckwheat (*Eriogonum fasciculatum*), Laurel Sumac (*Rhus laurina*), and Red Bush-monkey Flower (*Mimulus puniceus*).

There are a few cacti of three kinds—Barrel Cactus, Cholla and Prickly Pear. Spring months are brightened by Shooting Stars, Mariposa Lilies, Yellow Violets, Popcorn Flowers, Turkish Rugging, Brodiaeas and many other annuals and perennials.

Some of the larger shrubs appear in both communities, but as you walk through you will notice that there aren't any small flowering annuals in spaces between the large shrubs of the chaparral. There just aren't any spaces between them. This is characteristic of this type of vegetation. Dense crowns of evergreen foliage intermingle so that the top of the chaparral appears almost solid enough to walk upon. It isn't, but this shrubbery is too solid to walk through comfortably without a trail.

The Florida Canyoneers are ready to go along with you and point out things you might otherwise miss. Through lectures, field trips, and continuing study, the Canyoneers are now familiar with the plants and animals, the geologic history, and the ecology of the area. The guided tour program was opened with a brief informal ribbon cutting on November 17th, the day the Canyoneers were graduated from their training course.

Golden Yarrow (*Eriophyllum confertiflorum*). Flowers yellow.

You may visit the trails on your own, but you will have more fun if you go with the Canyoneers. They can show you where the Silverback Ferns and Barrel Cactus grow, and where the packrats live, or they can tell you where those rounded pebbles and cobbles probably were 40 million years ago.

You never know what you will see or what you will find out when you walk a nature trail. Things are never exactly the same for even two days in a row. □

SALINITY IN SOILS

§ CWS §

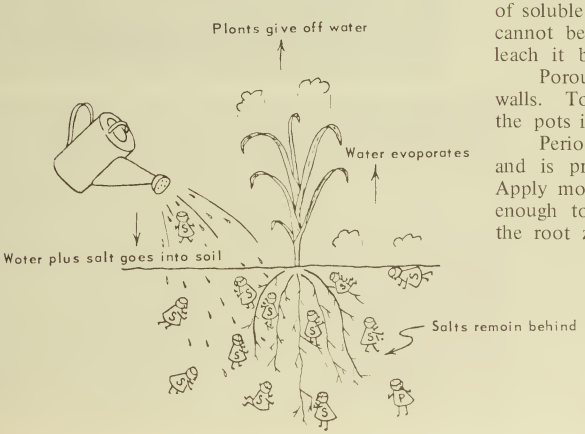
TOO MUCH SALT in the soil or in irrigation water will stunt plant growth, burn foliage, and even kill plants. Wherever irrigation and fertilization are practiced, there is danger of accumulating harmful amounts of salts. This applies not only to your outdoor plants, but also to indoor plants.

The salts found in soils come from one or more of the following three sources: soil mixes, irrigation waters, and fertilizers. All salts are derived originally from the decomposition of rocks and minerals. In humid climates, rainfall washes these salts out of soils. However, in semi-arid climates, such as those in most of California, rainfall is so low that salts accumulate to harmful levels. In such climates, excess water must be applied to leach out undesirable salts.

All "irrigation" waters contain dissolved salts; thus, whenever you irrigate, you add salt to the soil. These salts will accumulate and will damage plants unless excess water is applied periodically to leach them out of the soil.

Inorganic fertilizer materials are salts, and all organic fertilizers must be converted to salts before they can be absorbed by plants. Fertilizer salts are essential, but in excessive amounts they are harmful to plant growth.

SALT BUILDUP CYCLE



The time it takes for salts to build up to harmful levels depends on:

- amount of salt originally in the soil.
- concentration of salt in the irrigation water.
- frequency of watering.
- amount and type of fertilizer applied.
- adequacy of drainage.

As an example of how long it takes for a soil to become excessively saline—start with a container of soil that is salt-free, has good drainage, and is irrigated with a water of low salt content. Fertilize moderately and irrigate twice a week without passing any water out of the container. In about 45 days or less, the soil will become saline enough to harm most ornamentals.

As most often is the case, the soil, sand or peat in the planting mixture may already contain an appreciable amount of salt. Also, many irrigation waters can be considered to have more than a "low salt content". If the more saline waters are used for irrigating, excess salts may build up rapidly, and plants may be harmed in much less than 45 days in the absence of leaching.

If a salt problem is serious, plants will be affected. The tips and margins of leaves will be burned, and in extreme cases the plants will die. However, the most common symptom of salt injury is simply a reduction in the rate of plant growth. Often this goes unnoticed or is thought to be caused by something other than salinity.

The soil, sand, peat, or leaf mold used in a soilmix sometimes contains an excessive amount of soluble salt. If salinity is suspected and a test cannot be made, spread the material evenly and leach it by sprinkling abundantly before using.

Porous pots often accumulate salts in their walls. To avoid damage from this source, soak the pots in fresh water before using them again.

Periodic leaching will prevent salt buildup and is probably the best bet when in doubt. Apply more than enough water to wet the soil—enough to move ½ to 1 inch of water beyond the root zone and out of the container. □

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CHAMISE GREASEWOOD

by LOUISE De GROOT

IN FOOTHILLS AND MOUNTAINS during late June, the Chamise lays its cover of white beauty over the landscape. So prevalent is this shrub in some areas that a large stand, named a Chamisal, colors hills and canyons with deep green for mile upon mile. This shrub is not called Greasewood for nothing—its bark, wood and leaves burn easily and with vigor, adding to the fire hazard during dry fall months.

Greasewood can be either a ground hugging mound, or a tall leggy shrub eight or even ten feet in height. The dark color comes from the thick clusters of tiny, needle-like leaves. When the flowers appear, they are so small that many of together will form only a narrow cone of white at the ends of the branches. As one speeds past on the road, the cones look like slender white fingers pointing skyward on the long dark arms of the shrub.

If the winter has been one of plentiful rain, whole hillsides will look like a lovely white blanket during blooming season. The blossoms soon fade, but even after fading, the flower heads turn a rich dark brown color. Mingled with the dark green of the leaves, the Chamise continues to color the hills with bronze tones that are beautiful to see.

NEWS FLASH!!

§ CWS §

THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO has started a newspaper collection/recycling program that will service the central area of San Diego, the northern and South Bay areas. Bagged and bundled newspapers will be picked up from the curbs every other week on the regular trash collection day. The purpose of this program is to re-route the tons of newspapers discarded by San Diegans every day from our sanitary landfills to paper recycling companies. There is a potential saving of $1,600 per day to you the taxpayers. LET'S GET ON THE STICK AND MAKE THIS PROGRAM WORK!

The central area includes the communities south of Pacific Beach Drive, Interstate 8 and Mission Gorge Road. The next collection weeks for this area will be March 4th, 18th, April 1st, 15th and 29th, and every other week thereafter. Collection for the northern and South Bay areas are the weeks of March 11th and 25th, April 8th and 22nd and every other week thereafter.

Emphasis is placed on the importance of proper bundling of the newspapers to prevent them from being scattered on the streets. A city ordinance has been passed which prohibits anyone from taking or tampering with the newspapers placed on curbs for collection. □

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HAPPINESS IS A BOUQUET OF FLOWERS!

A SPECTACULAR VINE

by VIRGINIA CARLSON

MY FIRST MEMORY of a Wisteria vine was one which grew on a neighbor's garden fence in Minnesota many years ago. Wisterias were rather rare there but this one grew well and blossomed in the years when the snow mounded over the fence high enough to protect the flower buds.

When we bought a home in California, it was with an attached patio covered with reed fencing. The whole place had been landscaped with semi-tropicals for easy maintenance. Removal of Eugenias, New Zealand flax and large Philodendron, left an empty bed around the middle support on the west side. That seemed like a perfect place for a Wisteria to climb. I ordered a *Wisteria chinensis,* the Chinese Wisteria, in a five-gallon can and planted it next to the post. The soil on this part of the lot turned out to be mostly sandy sub-soil which had been improved with redwood sawdust. We incorporated more humus when we planted the vine and it found the situation to its liking. It took off well and covered the patio in three or four years. The adjoining lawn is planted in St. Augustine grass which gets watered every week or two and seldom fed. These conditions seem to favor the vine. It has bloomed profusely since the first year for about two months in spring. Blooms come out before the leaves so it makes a spectacular show. The whole patio is perfumed by its fragrance. In summer it shades us on the patio. Its roots search out all the moisture and food for a radius of about fifteen feet. When the grass starts to wilt, I realize it is time to water. Succulents will survive beneath it.

Wisteria chinensis comes in white as well as the violet shade which we have. The Japanese Wisteria, *W. floribunda* has very long blossoms, some with clusters two feet long, opening gradually from top to bottom. They are available in lavender and white, blue-purple, violet-purple and pink.

Less well known is the Silky Wisteria which is distinguished by having both sides of the leaves covered with velvety hairs. Flowers are either violet or white.

Wisterias are commonly grown as vines, but young plants can be trained as multi-stemmed shrubs or small semi-weeping trees. The stem is trained upright as tall as desired, then the top pinched out and subsequent laterals pruned to make sturdy branches. Left untrained on a bank, the Wisteria will form strong growing ground cover. Young seedlings are sometimes used for bonsai work with one stem trained in a desired style and one or two buds allowed to bloom. □

leafin' thru

VEGETABLES & FRUITS by James Underwood Crockett and the Editors of Time-Life Books; illustrated by Richard Crist. Time-Life Books, New York, 155 pages; $6.50.

Mr. Crockett does his gardening in Massachusetts on a small plot where he grows what he likes, and often of varieties he cannot get in the markets. His planting schedule and varieties are those that fit the Massachusetts climate. There is an account of a friend who gardens in Florida on a small plot of land. But one can use neither of these in southern California. However, his basic rules for soil preparation, interplanting and growing from seed would apply in any climate.

The marginal recipes, historical notes and personal experiences are most interesting. His encouragement to grow dwarf fruits, herbs, berries and grapes on small plots is most stimulating. There are Charts showing what to plant and when, and how to space and interplant. His chapter on culinary herbs and a chart of the principal ones and what foods they enhance is worth having handy. Pictures of a pot garden on a New York roof are inspiring to one with limited space. The beautiful colored pictures of fruits, vegetables, herbs, bugs and pests, as well as gardens are works of art and well worth enjoying as such.

The whole tone of the book is to inspire one to get out and dig and plant something that is edible and then to enjoy your own creation. The book is decorative enough to keep on the coffee table for reference at any time.

ROSALIE GARCIA

now is the time

–A Cultural Calendar of Care from our Affiliates–

BEGONIA SOCIETY
MARGARET LEE

✓ to fertilize–use full strength once a month, or half strength twice a month, or quarter strength once a week.
✓ to spray to eliminate pests and mildew.
✓ to repot as needed (do not use too large a pot).
✓ to cut back and prune for new growth and to shape.
✓ to pot growing tuberous types in large pots.
✓ to root cuttings for a greater supply of plants.
✓ to keep plants damp but not wet–do not overwater.

BONSAI SOCIETY
SIMONNE DALY

✓ to get some new pots.
✓ to screen soil to start repotting–leave two-thirds of roots & soil.
✓ to do touch-up pruning of branches.

CACTUS & SUCCULENT SOCIETY
JIM STALSONBURG

✓ to fertilize with a high phosphorous type fertilizer for plants in the ground; an even balanced fertilizer for those plants in pots.
✓ to ease into watering as signs of new growth are noted.
✓ to check blooms for aphids.
✓ to beware of mealies and other pests–control with equal parts of alcohol and water.
✓ to repot into new soil those plants needing rejuvenation.

CAMELLIA SOCIETY
WILLIAM GIBSON/BOB & SHALA McNEIL

✓ to prune–cut back to a growth or a leaf union.
✓ to eliminate inside branches to open the plant to air.
✓ to withhold fertilizer until new growth starts.
✓ to maintain watering every week.
✓ to make grafts.
✓ to transplant or repot–do not overpot or feet for six months.
✓ to keep fallen blooms picked up to prevent "petal blight".
✓ to start spraying for looper worms and aphids in April.

DAHLIA SOCIETY
MILDRED MIDDLETON

✓ to place your tubers in vermiculite, sand or other starting medium in a warm place to sprout–beware of too much moisture.
✓ to prepare planting areas broadcasting 2½ pounds of superphosphate and 2½ pounds sulphate of potash for each 100 square feet of ground–after tubers have sprouted, plant sprout-side up six inches below ground surface, two inches from stake, and cover with two inches of soil; moisten but do not keep wet.
✓ to protect new growth from snails.

EPIPHYLLUM SOCIETY
GEORGE FRENCH

✓ to feed your epiphyllums with low nitrogen fertilizer.
✓ to step-up watering being certain soil is well-drained.
✓ to check trellis and be sure the plant is well secured.
✓ to check that plants are in filtered sunlight to encourage the development of buds.
✓ to check plants in April for drainage–do not move plants at this time, but continue feeding for blooms.
✓ to check plants for pests–mainly snails.
✓ to take cuttings.
✓ to pinch off buds that may form to enable the energy to go into rooting for new plant.
✓ to generally prepare for the heavy blooming season.

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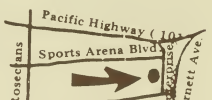

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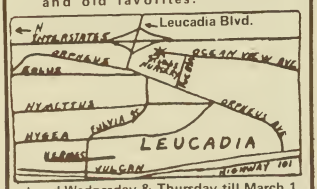

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FUCHSIA SOCIETY
WILLIAM SELBY

- ✓ to clean up those fallen leaves, blossoms, and other trash.
- ✓ to not be hasty in disposing of those "frost-bitten" plants—they may look dead, but if watered they may recover and send out new growth; do not prune until then; then prune back to growth.
- ✓ to continue taking cuttings.
- ✓ to start pinching on plants that were pruned earlier.
- ✓ to do any last pruning in March, shaping ground planted plants.
- ✓ to feed fertilizer high in nitrogen with a little acid food to encourage growth.
- ✓ to watch for pests.
- ✓ to be sure you have watered thoroughly the day before spraying.

GERANIUM SOCIETY
PHIL BUSH

- ✓ to start pinching to shape plant.
- ✓ to give plants a feeding of high-nitrogen fertilizer.
- ✓ to make sure plants are clean of dead foliage and flowers.

IRIS SOCIETY
ART DAY

- ✓ to fertilize with a low-nitrogen all purpose or liquid fish fertilizer.
- ✓ to be on guard for insects.
- ✓ to give water if season is dry.
- ✓ to use systemic sprays for aphids and thrips.

ORCHID SOCIETY
LOIS DONAHUE

- ✓ to check which cymbidiums will need dividing and/or repotting.
- ✓ to eliminate many duplicates.
- ✓ to give cymbidiums lots of light with good ventilation.
- ✓ to give miniature cymbidiums a slightly warmer growing condition.
- ✓ to cut down on water and strong light for the newly potted cymbidiums—wait until root growth has started.
- ✓ to continue slug and snail bait—do not use any arsenic bait.
- ✓ to repot outdoor cypripediums after blooming.
- ✓ to give phalaenopsis less light but more heat and humidity.

ORGANIC GARDENING
CHESTER BROOKS

- ✓ to consider your beds—dig in well-decomposed manure and a compost (not raw manure; rake and plan your actual planting.
- ✓ to replant again fall garden vegetables.
- ✓ to plant summer flowers.
- ✓ to check fruit trees and prune if not already done.
- ✓ to remember to put snail bait in containers (jar lids work well); poison contaminates the ground if in direct contact with soil.

ROSE SOCIETY
DEE THORSON

- ✓ to maintain an adequate water supply for the rapidly growing bushes.
- ✓ to apply an organic fertilizer—½ cup per bush—if the application was not made at pruning time (for established bushes).
- ✓ to eliminate aphids, using a systemic insecticide as a soil drench.
- ✓ to "thumb-prune" (rub-off) unwanted budeyes.
- ✓ to begin feeding with a liquid fish fertilizer when new growth is about two inches long.
- ✓ to begin preventative spraying against mildew.

GREEN THUMB ITEMS

- ✓ to prune spring-flowering shrubs—use sprigs for house decorations.
- ✓ to divide chrysanthemums—select new growth from outside the old.
- ✓ to spray pyracantha for red spider.
- ✓ to cut back poinsettia, removing all last year's growth to within two joints of the old wood.

florascope

FLORASCOPE IS A NEW COLUMN that belongs to you! In truth, it not only belongs to you, but you, its readers, will be the only authors.

We are all aware of how helpful "household hint" columns have been for many years. They consist of ideas that are of proven interest and usefulness to homemakers. Just as every homemaker has at least one suggestion to help others make things go easier, we are certain that all gardners and flower arrangers have excellent ideas to share also.

Our desire is to give each of you a "bulletin board" where your hints and suggestions will be readily available to others. We are not asking for startling innovations, although they would certainly be welcome, but we are asking for good commonsense practises that you may take for granted, that could be of great help to those who are not aware of them.

Is there some little thing about gardening or flower arranging that you would like to know? Someone among our readers will surely know the answer. Why don't you ask them through FLORASCOPE?

Questions, answers and suggestions may be submitted to FLORASCOPE, c/o CALIFORNIA GARDEN, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park, San Diego, California, 92101.

DO IT NOW! Remember, many people will really benefit from "your" column.

SKIPPER COPE

• • Cut all roots off of bearded iris rhizomes before planting. This eliminates chances of nematodes and makes them much easier to plant.

PENNY BUNKER

• • Always use warm rather than cold water when watering house plants–less of a shock.

HAZEL ARNOLD

• • More people make the mistake of over-potting plants than under-potting them. This is a very serious error because roots get sour when they do not reach the bottom of the pot.

ALICE CLARK

• • Cut flowers will last much longer if they are allowed to stand in warm water before arranging.

ETHEL HOYT

• • After planting seeds, lightly scatter pine needles or straw over them. This protects the young plants from the night chill.

ROSALIE GARCIA

• • Do not water plants with soft water. It contains too much salt and will kill the plants.

SIMONNE DALY

• • After spraying with Polytrap in the spring, I carry a small plastic squeeze bottle of the mixture with me and spray the new growth each time I go into the garden. This keeps the new growth protected and avoids re-spraying treated material that does not need it–saves both time and money.

LORRETTA ENGH

• • QUESTION: Attention Begonia Growers! Size-wise, when should Rhizamatous Begonias be planted? At what time of year?

LOIS DONAHUE

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8371 La Jolla Shores Dr., L.J. 92037

MEN'S GARDEN CLUB OF S.D. Co.
Fourth Thurs., Casa del Prado, 7:30 p.m.
Pres: Mr. M.L. Barksdale—222-2884
3756 Milan Street, S.D. 92107

ORGANIC GARDENING CLUB
Third Fri., Casa del Prado, 7:30 p.m.
Pres: Fred Nimtz—479-7585
3815 Valley Vista Road, Bonita 92002

PALOMAR DISTRICT, CALIFORNIA GARDEN CLUBS, INC.
Director: Mrs. Donald Innis—225-1464
3211 Trumbull St., S.D. 92106

POINT LOMA GARDEN CLUB
Second Wed., S.D. Federal, Rosecrans & Canon, 10 a.m.
Pres: Mrs. Roy K. Jones, II—222-9737
3971 Del Mar Avenue., S.D. 92107

SAN CARLOS GARDEN CLUB
Fourth Tues., San Carlos Club, 6955 Golfcrest Drive
Pres: Mrs. Wendell Bemis—465-6834
7808 Lake Adion Dr., S.D. 92119

SAN DIEGO BONSAI SOCIETY, INC.
Second Sun., Casa del Prado, 1-5 p.m.
Pres: Dr. Herbert Markowitz—224-8552
876 Armada Terrace, S.D. 92107

SAN DIEGO BOTANICAL GARDEN FOUNDATION, INC.
Second Thurs., Casa del Prado
Pres. John Farleigh—295-5404
2217 Whitman St., S.D. 92103

SAN DIEGO CACTUS & SUCCULENT SOCIETY, 2nd Sat., Casa del Prado, 1:30
Pres: Joseph Bibbey—423-5133
490 Citrus Ave., Imperial B. 92032

SAN DIEGO CAMELLIA SOCIETY
Third Wed., Casa del Prado, 7:30 p.m.
Pres: Harry Humphrey—583-4337
4659 Winona Ave., S.D. 92115

SAN DIEGO CHAPTER, CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY, Fourth Wed., Casa del Prado, 7:30 p.m.
Pres: Earl Galloway—282-0388
4365 Alder Dr., S.D. 92116

SAN DIEGO COUNTY DAHLIA SOCIETY
Fourth Tues., Casa del Prado, 7:30 pm
Pres: Abe Janzen—277-4473
3521 Bedford St., S.D. 92111

SAN DIEGO COUNTY ORCHID SOCIETY
First Tues., Casa de Prado, 7:30 pm
Pres: Robert Galan—422-2000
4312 Vista Coronado Dr. Chula V. 92010

SAN DIEGO EPIPHYLLUM SOCIETY
Second Wed., Casa del Prado, 7:30 pm
Pres: George French—223-8258
3624 Voltaire St. S.D. 92106

SAN DIEGO FUCHSIA SOCIETY
Sec. Mon., Casa del Prado, 8 p.m.
Pres: Mrs. Frank Calamari—232-8232
2867 "G" St. S. D. 92102

SAN DIEGO/IMPERIAL COUNTIES IRIS SOCIETY, Third Sun., Casa de Prado 1:30 p.m.
Pres: Paul Runde—281-4835
4670 Twain Ave., S.D. 92120

SAN DIEGO ROSE SOCIETY
Third Mon., Casa del Prado, 8 p.m.
Pres: Mrs. Allen P. Sears—461-6408
1510 La Corta Lemon Grove, 92045

SAN DIEGO TROPICAL FISH SOCIETY
Second Sun., Casa del Prado, 7:30 pm
Pres: William McColl—271-0731
8613 Bennington St. S.D. 92117

SOUTHWESTERN GROUP, JUDGES' COUNCIL CALIFORNIA GARDEN CLUBS, INC.
First Wed., Casa del Prado, 10:30 a.m.
Pres: Mrs. Jose Garcia -264-4167
319 South 39th St., S.D. 92113

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Away from your own home,
Please don't pick the faded blossoms,
Jes' leave 'em alone.
Remember, you ain't in your garden ;
Here, you ain't the boss.
Some faded blossom that you pick
May destroy my favorite cross!

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